

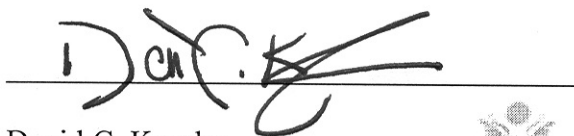
If this case is assigned to the undersigned, counsel should have already executed and filed the official form captioned “Consent to Proceed Before A United States Magistrate Judge.” See Local Rule 73.1. If they have not already done so, counsel should file the required form promptly.

If this case is assigned to a District Judge, the parties may still consent to the exercise of jurisdiction by a Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 73(b). If the parties wish to consent at this time, or at any time during the pendency of this case, counsel should file the required form.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. The Initial Pretrial Conference shall be held in the chambers of the undersigned (Room 168, U.S. Courthouse, 401 West Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina) on **Friday, January 6, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.**
2. Counsel may, but are not required to, bring the parties to the Initial Pretrial Conference.
3. The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to counsel for the parties.

Signed: December 12, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.C. Keesler", is written over a horizontal line.

David C. Keesler  
United States Magistrate Judge

